

ASSESSMENT GROWS

INCREASE OF NEARLY \$19,000,000 IS SHOWN IN VALUATIONS

TOTAL AUTOS IN NEBRASKA

Items of General Interest Gathered From Reliable Sources Around the State House.

Western Newspaper Union News Service.
Secretary O. E. Bernacker of the state board of assessments has completed a compilation of the assessed valuation of all property in the state as returned by county boards and county assessors and as equalized by the state board. It shows that the assessed or one-fifth valuation of all property in the state is \$500,703,073, an increase of \$18,771,831 over the total of last year.

This increase is accounted for mostly by the fact that lands were revalued for assessment this year for the first time in four years, as the law requires. Land values have increased in four years and as reported by the assessors and equalized by the state board real estate is now listed at \$17,393,207 more than it was four years ago.

Personal property is revalued every year. This class of property shows an increase of \$1,378,624 over last year. Of this increase \$531,766 was imposed by the state board on railroad property. The state board alone values railroad property for assessment purposes, while county assessors and county boards value other personal property for assessment, subject to revision by the state board.

Many Titles Not Recorded

Register of Public Lands Meier at Lincoln, has in his office 4,615 patents for land. These have never been delivered to the landowners, because they have never been taken out and recorded. Many abstractors of title count the record of the final receipt as clearing the title. This, however, is not the case, for there are a number of cases on record where the patent has been refused after the final payment has been made. "Thousands of acres in Nebraska have such clouded titles," said Mr. Meier. The stock of patents which Mr. Meier has on hand have come in from time to time from the general office at Washington. The law provides that these are to be delivered to the owners of the land when they return to the local register, either the registered duplicate final certificate or the duplicate receipt or in case of loss or destruction of either of these an affidavit in lieu thereof. If there is any doubt about the title of land being clear, the register of public lands will make the examination for a nominal fee.

Total Autos in the State

A total of 93,306 automobile numbers have been issued by Secretary of State Pool thus far this year, but 447 were to replace lost numbers, so the total number of automobiles in use in Nebraska August 31 was 92,859. This is a gain of 33,919 over the year 1914. The total number of motor cycles registered up to August 31 was 3,668. In the month of August the secretary of state issued 6,466 automobile licenses and 159 motor cycle licenses. The cost of the automobile registration department in the office of the secretary of state for the month of August was \$1,226.69. This is paid out of funds in the state treasury derived from a fee of 35 cents out of every \$3 automobile license paid to county treasurers. Fees collected by the secretary of state in August, not including any portion of automobile license money, aggregated \$9,054.83, the major portion of which was for corporation occupation permits and the filing of articles of incorporation.

Big Increase in Bank Deposits.

Deposits of state banks in Nebraska have increased in sixteen months by 16% per cent and now total more than \$151,000,000. This is the showing set forth in the summary issued by the banking department from the reports filed by 834 banks giving the conditions of their business on August 10. It was considered phenomenal when the last previous reports, dated May 29, exhibited more than \$23,000,000 increase of deposits over April, 1915. But the summer statements of deposits register a further growth of \$9,563,965, making the actual increase in sixteen months about \$48,000,000.

Major John M. Birkner, chief medical officer of the Fourth Nebraska regiment, has recommended that Private Frederick Sassenberry, Company A, Fourth regiment, be discharged from the army for the good of the service. Private Sassenberry reported on sick list July 20 and was sent to the army hospital at San Antonio, where medical authorities advised an operation. The boy refused and was sent back to his company. Since his return he has been unable to work and has been confined to his quarters.

Secretary of State Pool finds that he will be short \$1,500 to \$1,600 in funds provided by the legislature to send referendum pamphlets to 257,100 voters, but he has arranged to get the funds from outside sources and has prepared to mail the booklets. The postage on each will be one cent, or a total of \$2,571.19. The envelopes for the pamphlets have been addressed. For this work and postage the legislature appropriated \$2,000. A former legislature appropriated \$5,000 for a less number of booklets relating to propositions submitted to the voters.

FEDERAL BODY ANSWERS

Admits Making Errors in the Torrington Case.

The interstate commerce commission, replying to criticism of the Nebraska state railway commission, admits it made some errors in its order correcting alleged discriminatory rates between Torrington, Wyo., and Henry Neb., but it says the state commissioners are in error in assuming that the interstate commission has any disposition to be arbitrary in the performance of its duty in these "unpleasant cases" which involve unjust discrimination between state and interstate rates. The federal body says it has a duty to perform and would be unworthy of the position it occupies if it hesitated to perform it in accordance with the law and its honest convictions.

In regard to failure to notify the state commission of the hearing in the Torrington case the federal commission says its policy of notifying state commission of such cases was adopted after the hearing in this case.

Shrinkage in Cash Balance

A shrinkage of nearly \$200,000 in the state of Nebraska's cash balance is shown by Treasurer Hall's monthly report to have taken place during August. The amount of cash remaining in all funds at the close of business for the month was \$1,560,934, as against \$1,757,691 at the beginning.

The state normal fund is again running behind, being \$51.23 in the hole by this exhibit.

More than half of the falling off in the total cash balance took place in the general fund, which slumped from \$622,908 the first of August to \$507,208 at the end of the month. Only \$60,036 was taken in for the general fund, while payments out of it aggregated \$175,735.

With half a million dollars still to go on, Treasurer Hall expects to get through the next three "lean months" until new taxes begin coming into the state treasury, without incurring a deficit in the general fund, as he succeeded in doing so last year. It is not believed that the general fund balance will drop very far below \$100,000 before the new receipts start to build it up again.

The temporary school fund now contains \$127,495, having been increased by \$45,000 during August. The university building fund stands at \$323,942, and the institution cash funds total \$279,761.

The state has \$9,855,098 invested in bonds, the interest from which is distributed semi-annually in state school apportionments.

Rural School Conference.

Bigger school districts in rural communities, legislation to provide a levy of 2½ mills for rural education, the election of county and state superintendents on non-partisan tickets and the "industrialization of rural schools" to make them more practical, were urged in resolutions passed at a state wide rural school conference at the Temple theatre at Lincoln during state fair week.

These matters, by a vote of the conference, will all be referred to the 1917 legislature for action.

It is urged in the resolutions that the districts own school sites, with enough land for demonstrations in agricultural work and buildings approved by the state superintendent in matters of sanitation and lighting.

The conference favored the distribution of three-fourths of school funds allotted to different counties on the basis of number of schools rather than on attendance. The sale of school lands was recommended by the conference.

Helped Him to See Sick Mother.

Merl Gobble, Company D, Fifth regiment, has returned to his home in Falls City from Camp Llano on a fifteen days' furlough on account of the serious illness of his mother. The boy received word of his mother's illness shortly after the Fifth regiment was paid. Although he still retained every cent of the \$15 the government gave him in return for a month's service, he did not have enough money to pay transportation. Members of Company O learned of the situation and one of the boys quietly started a slip of paper through the company. Every boy gave something and in less than an hour's time sufficient money had been raised to send Goble back home.

The state auditor's office has registered \$7,500 of water extension bonds recently voted at Tilden.

No Student Discharges Granted

Colonels Paul and Eberly, commanding the Fourth and Fifth Nebraska regiments have been notified in an order from General Funston that no student discharges would be granted. They were also notified that because of the passage of a recent senate act granting \$50 monthly to dependent families of militiamen, no discharges would be granted on that grounds. The regimental commanders had recommended that students be not discharged and approved highly of the first part of the new order. All excess equipment in the Nebraska regiments has been called for and returned to the regimental quartermasters.

The resignation of Major Frank S. Nicholson, chief sanitary officer of the Fifth regiment, has been received and accepted by Colonel Herbert Paul. Major Nicholson was granted a thirty days' leave of absence and returned to his home at St. Paul. His business affairs were in such shape when he reached home that he deemed it advisable to sever his connections with the army and confine his efforts to his civil pursuits.

STRIKE IN PROSPECT

750,000 UNION MEN AND WOMEN MAY WALK OUT IN NEW YORK.

MASS VOTE IS NECESSARY

Will Include Stage Employees, Printers, Brewery Workers, Longshoremen, Bartenders, Machinists and Moulders.

New York.—A strike of stage employees, longshoremen, brewery workers, machinists, bartenders, moulders and printers in sympathy with the unionized carmen, who quit their places four days ago, was decided upon at a meeting of the heads of their unions, according to an announcement by Hugh Frayne, state organizer of the American Federation of Labor.

A resolution was adopted calling on all unionized wage earners in Great New York, Yonkers, Mount Vernon, White Plains and New Rochelle to sanction a strike in "support of the contention of the street railway men of their right to organize." The resolution recommended that the workers of the various trades lay down their tools until the companies are forced to recognize the carmen's union.

According to State Organizer Frayne, approximately 750,000 men and women are enrolled in the unions that were represented at the meeting recently.

Before a sympathetic strike can be declared, however, it was explained by the union leaders, it will be necessary for them to call mass meetings of their respective unions and put the proposition to a vote of the members.

Austria Will Not Accept.

Vienna.—That Austria Hungary, while it would hail peace with joy, has no intention of quitting the fray at the present under the terms its enemies would impose, is the statement made by Baron Burian, the Austro-Hungarian minister of foreign affairs. "There may be some," said Baron Burian, "who say that for military reasons we ought to be the first to start peace overtures. I do not think so, as long as our antagonists speak of the partition of our country among themselves. We have defended our soil pretty well so far, and will do it longer—long enough to make the others tired of it."

The position of the dual monarchy in the world of war, he said has been erroneously characterized by enemies and certain neutrals as unsatisfactory. "Austro-Hungary is far from lying down, as hoped by some," said the minister in a tone carrying conviction. "It is true we would hail peace with joy, but not the sort of peace our enemies would impose. So long as we have to defend ourselves against those who want to take part of our territory, we naturally are unwilling to discuss peace and so long we also are determined to hold out and win. The thought that we are eager for peace on any terms originates probably in minds hoping that such will become the case."

The minister then reviewed the situation prior to Roumania's declaration of war, and said:

"We offered Roumania no territorial concessions at any time after having discovered in the case of Italy that the world was likely to mistake our reasonable attitude for weakness. Nor were we ever taken by surprise by Roumania. What did fool us was that Roumania made up her mind so quickly."

"We have the determination to emerge from this sad and deplorable affair into which we were forced by a private affair with Serbia and which the entente group made a pretext for a general descent upon ourselves and our allies. Sooner or later it must dawn upon our enemies that this entire business is useless. But I suppose not before the English army has broken more heads against the steel wall of Germans in France, or the French have been further decimated; while the Russians are dying like flies every day in the east."

England Threatened With Strike.

London.—The situation resulting from the railway men's demand for an increase in wages of 10 shillings a week has become increasingly serious. At a meeting of 3,000 railway workers at Cardiff a resolution was adopted providing that unless the demands are conceded by September 16 all railway work will be stopped in South Wales at midnight the 17th.

Nebraska Girl Hangs Self.

Alliance, Neb.—Josephine Hampton, 22, daughter of E. H. Hampton, banker here, hanged herself in the basement of her home. There was apparently no reason for the act, she having been in excellent health and free from any trouble.

Nearly Half of Fund Collected.

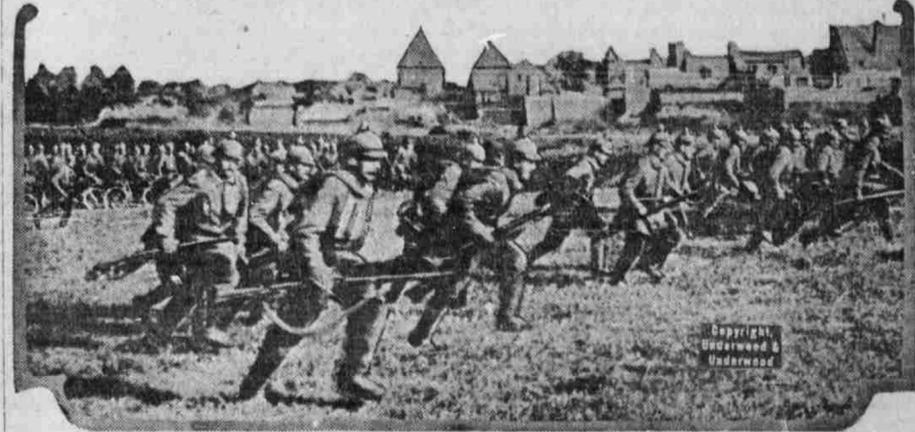
Philadelphia, Pa.—The Presbyterians have collected \$4,000,000 of the \$10,000,000 fund for aged and disabled ministers and their dependents, it was announced here.

PRESIDENT WILSON SIGNING CHILD LABOR BILL



President Wilson signing the child labor bill in the presence of officials of the department of labor and of the National Child Labor committee. At the left in the picture is Dr. A. J. McKelway, Southern secretary of the child labor committee; next to him Mrs. Constance Leupp Todd of the National Consumers league; reading to the right, Miss Helen L. Sumner and Miss Julia C. Lathrop, assistant chief and chief, respectively, of the children's bureau of the department of labor. At the right of the picture (with gray head) is Secretary of Labor Wilson and next to him, directly behind the president, Representative Keating of Colorado, author of the bill.

PHOTOGRAPH OF A REAL GERMAN CHARGE



This photograph, taken during an action on the western front, shows a division of German infantry charging the enemy. In the background is a cycle corps.

FATE OF SUBMARINE BREMEN IS A MYSTERY



If the British have captured or destroyed the German commercial submarine Bremen, they refuse to admit it officially and the fate of the vessel is a mystery. This photograph of the Bremen was made in the Weser river just before the boat started for America.

AN EMPHATIC PROTEST



The execution of Captain Fryatt by the Germans enraged the British troops almost as much as did the killing of Miss Cavell. Since the event many a big shell has been sent inscribed as is the one here photographed.

Deep Breathing.

Deep breathing, sensible breathing, every-day breathing—long life depends upon it, good looks always. Yet nine-tenths of the world's creatures hate to breathe, and young folks especially are as niggardly in the matter of filling their lungs with clean, wholesome air as if they thought they were dealing with poison. Twenty long breaths night and morning will quickly improve the looks of a girl who has been to go down with study and carelessness, and surely there is no beautifier cheaper than washing the lungs out with clean, fresh air.

OLD-TIME QUILTING INDUSTRY REVIVED



In a row of quaint little white cottages built on land the title of which dates back to Revolutionary times, young women are now plying the needle, patching, felling, quilting. There are some 20 women and girls who are earning their living making the same kinds of quilts and coverlets their great-grandmothers used to make. As this is the twentieth century, they have put a few modern touches to the industry, the most notable of which are their rigid eight-hour working law, and a regulation earning wage. The quilting bee, as the little cottage factory is named, was established three years ago to give congenial employment to the women and girls of Rye, N. Y., who needed it, and to revive the art of quilting. It was incorporated last year and now has become self-supporting.

Take a Sane Vacation.

W. H. Sullivan of Cleveland the other day remarked: "If anything really is the matter with a railroad man a two-week vacation is of no good to him. He usually has to work a couple of weeks to rest up from his vacation." It isn't necessary to discuss this saying in its bearing on the railroad man specifically to get the nub of the matter, which is that the strenuous vacation is no vacation at all. Nor is the idling vacation any better.

Those who turn from their accustomed endeavors to a vacation full of energy consuming efforts and dissipations and those who resign themselves to utter indolence make the same mistake of failing to grasp the opportunity for recuperation offered in the vacation.

Take your vacation sanely. Get out in the open. Exert yourself freely. Don't overdo or underdo. Don't dissipate. Recreate. Gather energy. A lot of benefit can be won in two weeks of natural, unforced living.—Detroit Free Press.